

# **Curtis E. LeMay Papers**

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Curtis E. LeMay Papers

**Span Dates:** 1918-1969

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1943-1969)

**ID No.:** MSS29918

**Creator:** LeMay, Curtis E.

**Extent:** 131,550 items ; 243 containers plus 14 classified and 4 oversize ; 90 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Aviator and U.S. Army and Air Force officer. Correspondence, diaries, speeches, teletype messages, flight orders, mission reports, strategic plans and operation reports, appointment calendars, maps, photographs, commissions, scrapbooks, and other papers chiefly concerning LeMay's career as an aviator and officer in the U.S. Army and Air Force and as a vice-presidential candidate in 1968.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

LeMay, Curtis E.

Wallace, George C. (George Corley), 1919-1998.

### Organizations

American Independent Party.

United States. Air Force.

United States. Air Force. Strategic Air Command.

United States. Army Air Forces. Air Matériel Command.

United States. Army.

United States. Army. Air Corps.

### Subjects

Aeronautics, Military--Research--United States.

Aeronautics, Military--United States.

Bombing, Aerial--Japan.

Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962.

Nuclear weapons--United States.

Strategic forces--United States.

Vice-Presidents--United States--Election--1968.

World War, 1939-1945--Aerial operations.

World War, 1939-1945--Burma.

World War, 1939-1945--China.

World War, 1939-1945--India.

World War, 1939-1945--Japan.

World War, 1939-1945--United States.

### Places

Berlin (Germany)--History--Blockade, 1948-1949.

United States--Defenses.

United States--Foreign relations--1961-1963.

United States--Military policy.

United States--Politics and government--1963-1969.

### Occupations

Air Force officers.

Army officers.  
Aviators.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Curtis E. LeMay, aviator and U.S. Army and Air Force officer, were deposited and then given to the Library of Congress by LeMay in 1965. Additions were received as gift from him in 1966 and 1969.

### Processing History

The LeMay Papers were processed in 1968. The finding aid was revised in 2014.

### Transfers

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some photographs and other pictorial material have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Some maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. Motion picture films, tape recording, soundscaper recordings, and phonograph recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the LeMay Papers.

### Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Curtis E. LeMay in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

### Access and Restrictions

The papers of Curtis E. LeMay are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### Security Classified Documents

Government regulations control the use of security classified material in this collection. Manuscript Division staff can furnish information concerning access to and use of classified materials.

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Curtis E. LeMay Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1906, Nov. 15	Born, Columbus, Ohio
1928	Commissioned second lieutenant, Field Artillery Reserve and enlisted in regular army
1929	Graduated, Air Corps Primary Flying School, March Field, Calif., and commissioned second lieutenant in Air Reserve
1930	Commissioned second lieutenant, Air Corps, regular army, assigned to 27th Pursuit Squadron, Selfridge Field, Mich.
1932	Graduated, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

1934	Married Helen Estelle Maitland and transferred to 18th Pursuit Group, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii
1935	Commissioned first lieutenant
1937	Operations and intelligence officer of 49th Bombardment Squadron, Langley Field, Va.
1939	E-17 airplane commander
1940	Promoted to captain and transferred to 41st Reconnaissance Squadron, Langley Field, Va.
1941	Transferred to 34th Bombardment Group Promoted to major Pioneered ferry routes to Africa via South America and to England via the North Atlantic
1942	Promoted to lieutenant colonel and colonel Made commanding officer of the 305th Bombardment Group which he trained and led to England as part of the 8th Air Force
1943	Awarded Air Medal for five combat missions over Europe in 1942 Led mission of Flying Fortresses from England to target at Regensburg, Germany Promoted to brigadier general
1944	Promoted to major general Made commander of 20th Bomber Command (China-Burma-India theater)
1945	Commanding general, 21st Bomber Command Became chief of staff to General Carl Spaatz of the United States Strategic Air Forces Appointed special deputy to the Army Air Forces Air Matériel Command, Wright Field, Ohio Appointed deputy chief of air staff for research and development, Washington, D.C.
1947	Placed in command of United States Air Forces in Europe after the air force had become a separate service
1948	Directed the Berlin Airlift Head, Strategic Air Command
1957-1961	Vice chief of staff, U.S. Air Force
1961-1965	Chief of staff, U.S. Air Force
1965	Retired
1968	Ran for vice president with George Wallace on the Independent Party ticket
1990, Oct. 1	Died, March Air Force Base, Calif.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Curtis Emerson LeMay (1906-1990) span the years 1918-1969, with most of the material dated between 1943 and 1969. The material consists of correspondence, diaries, speeches, teletype messages, flight orders, mission reports, strategic plans and operation reports, appointment calendars, maps, photographs, commission, scrapbooks, and

other papers that document LeMay's career in the army and air force and his 1968 campaign for vice president on the American Independent Party ticket. The papers are organized into ten series: [Special Personal Correspondence](#), [Command Assignment Papers](#), [Miscellany](#), [Campaign papers](#), [Classified](#), [Top Secret](#), [Restricted Data \(Classified\)](#), [Restricted Data \(Top Secret\)](#), [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#), and [Oversize](#).

The bulk of the collection is centered in the [Command Assignment Papers](#) series. Starting chiefly with flight books from LeMay's service in the United States Army Air Corps in 1928, it treats his commands in the European and China-Burma-India theaters during World War II and his charge of strategic air operations against Japan involving saturation bombing of Japanese cities. Included in addition to plans, orders, mission reports, bombing surveys, and intelligence reports are diaries, minutes of commanders meetings, and correspondence from 1943-1945.

After World War II, LeMay was assigned to Headquarters Air Materiel Command, and later to the Pentagon to be the first deputy chief of air staff for research and development. In 1947, he was named the first commander of the United States Air Force Europe, where, during his tenure, he oversaw the Berlin Airlift of 1948. Files for the period include a diary, official correspondence, and reports on the status of the airlift. Material from his tenure as head of the Strategic Air Command, 1948-1957, contains diaries, personal and official correspondence, aircraft operations reports, subject files, and speeches and statements before the public and congressional committees. As chief of staff of the air force from 1961 to 1965, LeMay was an advocate of increased defense spending, notable for promoting an aggressive nuclear strategy and clashing with the John F. Kennedy administration over the Cuban missile crisis. Documents from this career phase, like most of the collection, are organized and described as compiled by LeMay or his staff. They include, in addition to extensive official correspondence files, a "Top Secret File" of documents maintained by his office as a separate grouping because of their government-security classification. Although the original designation and order have been retained, most of the documents in the grouping have been declassified and made available for research.

Scrapbooks in the [Miscellany](#) series cover the range of LeMay's military career, while the [Campaign Papers](#) series focuses on his run in 1968 as the vice presidential candidate on the American Independent Party ticket led by Alabama Governor George Wallace. Included are correspondence, speeches, clippings, and other material from the campaign.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in ten series:

- [Special Personal Correspondence, 1935-1964](#)
- [Command Assignment Papers, 1918-1965](#)
- [Miscellany, 1918-1965](#)
- [Campaign Papers, 1968-1969](#)
- [Classified, 1947-1964](#)
- [Top Secret, 1948-1964](#)
- [Restricted Data \(Classified\), 1948-1964](#)
- [Restricted Data \(Top Secret\), 1948-1964](#)
- [North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1954](#)
- [Oversize, 1951-1952](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX A1-A7	<b><u>Special Personal Correspondence, 1935-1964</u></b> Letters received and copies of letters sent, together with enclosures and attachments. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX B1-B205	<b><u>Command Assignment Papers, 1918-1965</u></b> Official correspondence of letters received and copies of letters sent, teletype messages, flight orders, mission reports, strategic plans and operation reports, speeches, diaries, appointment calendars, miscellaneous documents, semiofficial and personal correspondence and miscellaneous nonofficial papers. Arranged according to LeMay's command assignments and organized within by topic or type of material.
BOX C1-C27	<b><u>Miscellany, 1918-1965</u></b> Certificates, clippings, commissions, photographs, scrapbooks, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX D1-D4	<b><u>Campaign Papers, 1968-1969</u></b> Correspondence, telegrams, speeches, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX CL 1-CL 9	<b><u>Classified, 1947-1964</u></b> Government-security documents. Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed
BOX TS 1-TS 2	<b><u>Top Secret, 1948-1964</u></b> Government-security documents. Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed
BOX RD 1	<b><u>Restricted Data (Classified), 1948-1964</u></b> Government-security documents. Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed
BOX RD 2	<b><u>Restricted Data (Top Secret), 1948-1964</u></b> Government-security documents. Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed
BOX NATO 1	<b><u>North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1954</u></b> Government-security documents. Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed
BOX OV 1-OV 4	<b><u>Oversize, 1951-1952</u></b> Maps and photographs. Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed

# Container List

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<b>BOX A2</b>	DeNerssman, Bert, 1938-1961 Dunn, Byron, 1957-1961 Eaker, Ira, 1957-1959 Emanuel, Victor, 1957-1959 (5 folders) Everest, Frank F., 1957-1959 Fellers, Bonner, 1957-1960
<b>BOX A3</b>	Ganey, Wiley D., 1957-1959 Godfrey, Arthur, 1952-1959 Griswold, Frances E., 1957-1959 Haig, Norman K., 1952-1957 Kantor, Mackinlay, 1950-1959 Kissner, August W., 1958 Kuter, Lawrence, S., 1958 Lay, Beirne, Jr., 1948-1956 Leach, W. Barton, 1957-1960 Lindsay, Richard C., 1958 Marx, Louis, 1948-1961 Miller, Burton T., 1948-1960 Millsop, Thomas E., 1947-1956

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	<i>First Over Germany</i> (final issue)
	<i>L'Amerique en guerre</i> , 12 Apr. 1944
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	Enclosure directive to C.G.U.S. Army Strategic Air Forces
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	Printed matter
	<i>Brief</i> , vol. 2, no. 45, "Inside Japan" (final issue)
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BOX CL 1	Special personal correspondence Power, Thomas, 1954 (Container A4) <i>See Restricted Data: Classified</i> Command Assignment Papers V USAFE, 1947-1948 Official correspondence Miscellaneous Teletypes (Container B45) VI Strategic Air Command, 1948-1957 Official correspondence General officers Anderson, Sam E. (Container B49) Armstrong, Frank A., Jr. (Container B49) Atkinson, J.H. (Container B50) Boyd, Albert (Container B50) Briggs, James E. (Container B51) Burns, Robert W. (Container B51) Caldera, Joseph D. (Container B51) Carroll, Joseph F. (Container B51) Childaw, Benjamin W. (Container B51) Kissner, A.W. (Container B55) Kuter, Laurence (Container B55) McConnell, J.P. (Container B55) Montgomery, J.B.(Container B56) Mundy, George W. (Container B56) Old, Archie J., Jr. (Container B57) Power, Thomas B. (Container B58) Ramey, Roger M. (Container B58) Saville, Gordon P. (Container B59) Selser, James C. (Container B59) Sweeney, Walter C., Jr. (Container B60) Twining, Nathan (Container B60) <i>See Restricted Data: Classified</i> Multiple addressees (Container B62) Miscellaneous Glantzberg, Frederic, 1952 (Container B62)

	A-J, 1957 (Container B63)
	S-Z, 1955 (Container B63)
	General
	Memos and RRs
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	Far East Air Force (Container B65)
	Trips
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	Overseas (Container B74)
	Thule (Container B74)
	1954
	Alaska (Container B75)
	Semi-official correspondence
	1948, Sept.-1950, Jan. (Container B77)
	1956, May (Container B82)
	Far East Asia Force (Container B84)
	Personal correspondence, 1948-1957
	National War College speeches and correspondence (Container B93)
BOX CL 2	Project Rand reports (Container B99) <i>See Restricted Data: Classified</i>
	Commanders conferences
	SAC commanders conferences
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	1955, 12 Apr., Dec. (Container B101)
	Miscellaneous matters
	Diary (LeMay)
	1950-1951 (Container B103)
	1953-1954 (Container B104) <i>See Restricted Data: Classified</i>
	Items of interest for the Commander in Chief
	1955, June-1957, Mar. (Container B104)
	Psychological warfare against Soviet submarines (Container B105)
	Electronic counter measures, Appendix A (Container B106)
	VII Vice Chief of Staff, USAF, 1957-1961
	Miscellaneous matters
	RAND (Container B114) <i>See Restricted Data: Classified</i>
	VIII Chief of Staff, USAF, 1961-1965
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	1964, Sept. (Container B120)
	Official correspondence
	Chief of Staff daily log, 1962-1964
	(3 folders) (Container B123)
BOX CL 3	Air Force Council
	General, 1961-1964
	(4 folders)(Container B126)
BOX CL 4	Chief Scientists/Rand/SAB, 1961-1963 (Container B127)
	Consultants (Container B128)
	Projects

BOX CL 5

Exercises/projects, 1961 (Container B128)  
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        1962 (Container B128)  
        1963 (Container B129)  
    Office of Information, 1963 (Container B130)  
Air Force personnel matters  
    Awards/trophies, 1964 (Container B132)  
    Recognition, letters of, 1961 (Container B132)  
    Promotion, 1964 (Container B133)  
Air staff actions  
    General  
        1961-1963 (Container B134)  
        1964 (Container B135)  
Aircraft, 1962-1964 (Container B135)  
AR-15 rifle, 1961-1962 (Container B136)  
Civil Air Patrol & Civil Defense, 1961 (Container B136)  
Investigation, 1961-1964 (Container B136)  
Missiles, 1961-1964 (Container B136)  
Nuclear testing and space matters, 1961-1962 (Container B137) *See Restricted Data:  
Classified*  
Air staff replies to inquiries addressed to the Chief of Staff, 1962-1963 (Container B138)  
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    General, 1962-1964 (Container B139)  
    Airborne Command Post, 1961 (Container B140)  
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    NATO/SEATO, 1961-1964 (Container B143)  
    Pacific Air Forces, 1961-1964 (Container B143)  
    Strategic Air Command, 1963-1964 (Container B144)  
    Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe  
        (SHAPE), 1961 (Container B144)  
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    United States Air Forces in Europe, 1961-1964 (Container B145)  
    United States Strike Command, 1961-1964 (Container B145)  
BOX CL 6  
Conferences/Meetings/Committees/Briefings/Boards, 1963-1964 (Container B146)  
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    Joint Chiefs of Staff and Weapons Systems Evaluation Group, 1963 (Container B148)  
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	Chief of Staff meetings, 1961-1962 (Container B153)
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	Official correspondence, miscellaneous, 1948 (Container B189)
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	Top Secret File, 1948-1964
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	B-11637 to B-14277 (Container B198) <i>See Top Secret</i>
	B-14967 (Container B199) <i>See Top Secret</i>
	B-17,784 (Container B200)
	B-18440, B-20905 (Container B201)
	B-B22072 (Container B202)

B-23874 to B-27392 (Container B203) *See Top Secret*  
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Additional top secret files  
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**BOX TS 1-TS 2**

**Top Secret, 1948-1964**

Government-security documents.  
Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed

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VI Strategic Air Command, 1948-1957  
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B-17904

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B-22193, B-23089  
B-23874 to B-27392  
B-29616 to B-37691  
B-37772 to B-53282  
B-53826 to B-58059  
Additional top secret files

**BOX RD 1**

**Restricted Data (Classified), 1948-1964**

Government-security documents.  
Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed

**BOX RD 1**

Special personal correspondence  
Power, Thomas, 1956  
Command Assignment Papers  
VI Strategic Air Command, 1948-1957  
Official correspondence  
General officers  
Selser  
Twining, Nathan  
Miscellaneous  
A-J, 1957

## Restricted Data (Classified), 1948-1964

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    - 1953-1954
  - Items of interest for the Commander in Chief
    - 1955, June-1957, Mar.
- VII Vice Chief of Staff, USAF, 1957-1961
  - Official documents
  - Miscellaneous matters
    - Rand
- VIII Chief of Staff, USAF, 1961-1965
  - Official correspondence
    - Air Force Council
      - General, 1961
      - Chief Scientists/Rand/SAB, 1961-1964
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    - General, 1963
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  - Nuclear testing and space matters, 1961-1962
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BOX RD 2

### Restricted Data (Top Secret), 1948-1964

Government-security documents.  
Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed

BOX RD 2

Command Assignment Papers  
VI Strategic Air Command, 1948-1957

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<b>BOX NATO 1</b>	<b>North Atlantic Treaty Organization, 1954</b> Government-security documents. Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed
<b>BOX NATO 1</b>	Command Assignment Papers Miscellaneous command papers Top Secret File B-37772
<b>BOX OV 1-OV 4</b>	<b>Oversize, 1951-1952</b> Maps and photographs. Arranged and described according to the series and folders from which the items were removed
<b>BOX OV 1</b>	Command Assignment Papers Miscellaneous command papers Warner engine design, 1951-1952, undated (Container B183)
<b>BOX OV 2</b>	Night photography from A3 Ejector tests (Container B189)
<b>BOX OV 3</b>	Map folio, "P-47 Fighter Rendezvous" (Container B191)
<b>BOX OV 4</b>	U.S. Air Force target complex mosaic series maps (Container B191)